

# NEWSLETTER

## AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY

JULY/AUGUST 1989

VOLUME 4 NO. 4

### ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BRIEF

#### Submitted to Minister of Labour

A subcommittee of the AIDS Network's Advisory Committee has submitted a brief regarding amendments to the Individual's Rights Protection Act to the Honourable Elaine McCoy, Minister of Labour. The subcommittee headed by Dr. Lorne Warneke, chairperson of the Advisory Committee, was assisted by Ms. Sheila Greckol, Barrister and Solicitor; Dr. Larry Jewell, past chairperson of the AIDS Network; and Barry Breau, the Network's Executive Director.

The brief congratulated the Minister for her public statements advocating the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Individual Rights Protection Act. In addition the brief urged the Minister to amend the definition of "physical disability", in Section 38. S.(i) of the Act, so it would include persons who are HIV positive as well as persons who have been diagnosed with an AIDS related illness.

The brief provided medical support for the amendments from the fields of psychiatry and public health. The medical arguments complement the civil rights arguments advanced by various organizations like the Gala Society, which the Network strongly supports.

The Network believes that control of HIV transmission will be secured only if individuals at increased risk feel secure enough to come forward for counselling and/or HIV testing. We doubt that individuals who fear discrimination, on the basis of their test results or their sexual orientation, will come forward freely.

A meeting with the Minister, to discuss these amendments further, is scheduled for July 26. Copies of the brief are available at the Network office.

#### IN MEMORIAM

In this month of July, another friend, Ralph has left us. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends. We also fondly recall Dean - August 1986.

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# Vth INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM SOME KEY SPEAKERS

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The Vth International AIDS Conference was held in Montreal from June 4 to June 9, 1989. The theme of the conference was of the need for more effort to be spent educating people about AIDS, and its prevention.

This article presents a series of highlights gleaned from speeches and the daily conference newspaper.

### Opening Ceremonies:

In his address at the opening of the Conference, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney spoke of three tools for AIDS prevention, 'education', 'tolerance' and 'research'. He also spoke of their interrelation "Education is a pre-condition of tolerance and respect, and only by understanding the basics of the illness can we generate the will to mobilize the vast, common effort required in research."

### Day 1:

"Because those most affected in some parts of the world, intra-venous drug users and homosexual men, are frowned upon by most cultures," says Professor Benjamin Freedman, "and, because privacy is a culture specific concept there is a need for sharing information about privacy and confidentiality." That need underlines some of the prime ethical issues faced by people working to halt the spread of the disease.

Dr. Richard Morrisset, Chief of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at Hotel Dieu Hospital in Montreal, stated that Canada is "at least two and a half years behind the United States" but is becoming more sensitized to the issue, he added that the economic impact of the disease is very high with each case presently costing the United States \$500,000 dollars and rising.

Dr. Jonathan Mann, Director, Global Program on AIDS of the World Health Organization revealed that, according to the Delphi Model for future projections, "During the 1990's three times as many

people will become infected than did in the 1980's" and there may be as many as "nine times more AIDS cases emerging in the 1990's than in the 1980's."

### Day 2:

Dr. Alistair Clayton, Director General of Canada's Federal Centre for AIDS remarked that, "so far we have a golden opportunity to prevent the spread of AIDS in drug users, " due to the low number of Canadian cases that are the result of IV drug use.

June Callwood, author, and a columnist for Toronto's Globe and Mail called for the federal government to take a leadership role in the fight against AIDS, So far their work has been in her words "despicable". She warned that "homophobia has been given a cloak, allowing it to mask itself as concern against infection." She charged that "bigotry is nourished and sustained by fear."

Finally Callwood bid the Roman Catholic Church to reverse its prohibition against the use of condoms. She declared, "the church is faced with a terrible choice; either yield on its opposition to condoms or watch the faithful die."

### Day 3:

Dr. David Roy brought up four major ethical issues that may arise at the bedside of PWAs. They are; the question of routine HIV testing for patients undergoing invasive procedures - and those performing them, the question of resuscitating PWA's who attempt suicide in the last stages of their disease, the question of honouring requests for painless and immediate termination by PWAs, the issue of confidentiality in those situations where it is unclear if the confidentiality rule should be respected. He concluded that it is mandatory that doctors know their patients in more than a purely diagnostic sense in order to deal with these issues.



Day 4:

The Chief Executive Officer of Groupe La Laurentienne Insurance informed people that while there were confidentiality leaks between insurance companies in the past, Canadian law prohibits the release about a person's HIV-immune status.

He also reminded the conference that most companies have established reserves to deal with increasing claims and that some companies have begun a policy of paying part of the claim in advance to PWAs.

Day 5:

Dr. June Osbourne, Dean of the School of Public Health, University of Michigan issued a warning against complacency. She feels that while the success of AIDS education campaigns in reducing the spread of HIV among gays is "dramatic and encouraging and one of the best examples of mobilizing what has been learned," there is a continuing need for education. Education must be tailored to different age groups and men with 'covert same sex orientation'. "Education can be effective," she said, "when it is community-based, sustained and conducted in the language of the listeners, rather than in terms chosen to mollify civic censors."

The Honourable Perrin Beatty, Minister of National Health and Welfare spoke to the closing of the conference. He enumerated three things that stood out from the conference. First, that AIDS is not abstract or theoretical; second, that we can succeed in the struggle against AIDS; and third, that AIDS respects no national boundaries.

He announced an improvement in the educational effort to explain to Canadians about the disease and how they should behave with respect to the rights of others. Stating that "Insensitivity is not acceptable in a country which considers itself decent and compassionate."

He called for all levels of government and non-governmental agencies to coordinate their efforts. He also called for a national

strategy to be produced this year as a result of a process based on broad participation. "Policies and systems that presently exist in Canada and much of the world are more likely to perpetuate the disease than stop its spread and the systems must change if we are going to prevent the lives of millions from being lost."



## BINGO AND CASINO VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS - HELP WANTED

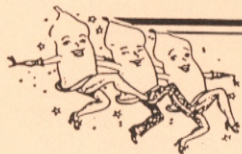
We've got some fund raising projects starting in August that require helping hands:

- One is folding Bonanza cards for a Bingo Association. This project will require 5 to 6 people for approximately 2-3 hours for one evening a month.
- The second one is the operation of a monthly Bingo game which will require 10-12 people for one evening. Dates are still tentative but we're starting a roster of names for interested volunteers to help staff and Board members manage and operate a monthly bingo.

Friends and family members are welcome to participate. You do not need to have gone through our Volunteer Training Program to help us in these projects.

**SUNTOON** by Jim Phillips





## HOW SAFE ARE CONDOMS?



How reliable are condoms? Often we receive conflicting information on condoms and their high percentage of failures. Until now there has been little reliable non-technical information for the public to read. The March 1989 issue of Consumer Report set out to find the answer to the question "Can you Rely on Condoms?"

To answer this question 3,300 readers were surveyed and 16,000 different condoms were tested. Readers answered questions relating to "Respondents Change in the Face of AIDS", "Condom Advantages", "Condom Disadvantages" and "Brand Preferences". Testing included 37 varieties of condoms manufactured in the U.S.A. and three from Japan.

Some interesting information came out of the readers who answered the Questionnaire. Fifty-five per cent of respondents indicated that AIDS had made no change in their behaviours. Over 60% of the heterosexual males found "peace of mind" to be the greatest advantage, while 70% of the heterosexual females reported that "having no side effects" was the greatest advantage. Both sexes reported the greatest disadvantage to be that they interrupted lovemaking. Sixty per cent of the males also felt that condoms reduced sensation.

Two basic tests for gauging condom strength were used by Consumer Report - a leakage test and an airburst test. The leakage test showed that there were one or two leaky samples in 18 different models from all of the major manufacturers but all fell well within the North American standards of four failures per 1,000 condoms.

To pass the airburst test a condom had to be able to withstand a minimum volume of 15 litres of air and a minimum pressure of 0.9 kiloPascals. Tested condoms fell into three categories - those with less than 1.5 percent failure rate (32 out of 40 models); those with a maximum failure

rate of 4% (6 models); and those with a failure rate of more than 10%. Only two brands fell in the third grouping: Lifestyles Extra Strength with Nonoxynol-9 and Lifestyles Nuda Plus.

An informal survey of local drugstores indicated that the majority of condoms sold in Edmonton fall within the first two categories. Twelve retail outlets - both large chain and independant druggists - produced the following list of condoms carried by local retailers:

### Group 1 (projected maximum failure rate of 1.5%)

Lifestyle Extra Strength Lubricated	7 outlets
Ramses Non-lubricated Reservoir End	6 outlets
Sheik Non-lubricated Reservoir End	7 outlets
Sheik Elite	7 outlets
Lifestyles Stimula Vibra-Ribbed	4 outlets
Ramses Extra with Spermicidal Lubricant	5 outlets
Lady Trojan	5 outlets
Trojan Plus 2	5 outlets
Trojan Naturlube Ribbed	6 outlets
Trojan-enz Lubricated	5 outlets
Trojan Ribbed	4 outlets
Lifestyles Conture	5 outlets
Trojans	5 outlets
Trojans Plus	5 outlets

### Group 2 (projected maximum failure rate of 4%)

Sheik Non-lubricated Plain End	5 outlets
Ramses Sensitol Lubricated	5 outlets
Ramses NuForm	5 outlets



Group 3 (projected maximum failure rate of 10%)

Lifestyles Extra Strength  
with Nonoxynol-9                      2 outlets

Lifestyles Nuda Plus                      ? outlets

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

## Support Services

### GROUP FACILITATORS NEEDED

The Network is seeking additional volunteer professionals to function as facilitators for the support groups. If you, or someone you know, have an interest in this special involvement with the Network, please contact David Fitzgerald (424-4767).

### P-24 ANTIGEN TEST

This test is now available through the Provincial Lab. It can be a useful indicator of someone's HIV infection status when used with other tests such as a T4 count.

Antigen p24 is the core protein of HIV and is produced whenever the virus is replicating. When p24 is detected this condition is known as intigenemia. The usual pattern of p24 production is that p24 appears just after infection and then falls to very low levels. When p24 production increases, this suggests an increase in viral production. Increased p24 production is associated with progression to AIDS. p24 is a useful measurement when testing antiviral drugs. For instance certain anti-HIV agents such as AZT and DDC are used, p24 levels fall. Right now in Canada the p24 test results come back either yes (positive/which is bad) or no (negative/which is good).

## WORLD AIDS DAY 1989

### EMPHASIS ON YOUTH

December 1st has been declared World AIDS Day '89. The World Health Organization has designated this day each year to "heighten awareness about the rise of HIV infection and AIDS disease; strengthen AIDS prevention activities and programs, at all levels of society."

The theme this year will be Youth and AIDS, to emphasise the role of young people in AIDS prevention and control. It means informing them:

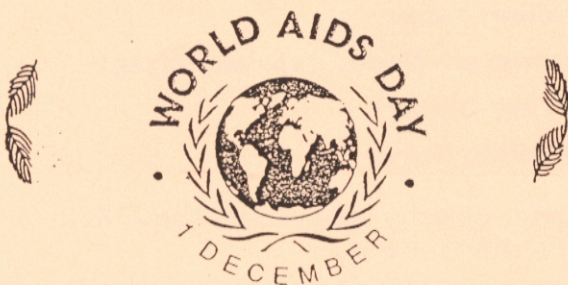
- that the risk of HIV is real;
- that infection with HIV can be avoided through personal behaviour;
- that people infected with HIV and people with AIDS should be treated with respect and dignity; and
- that AIDS can only be stopped by a worldwide effort.

World AIDS Day '89 is a day to strengthen the spirit of solidarity, tolerance, compassion and understanding for people infected with HIV or people with AIDS through knowledge, compassion and action. Through a determined effort, we can establish a lasting effort to stop AIDS.



### ROSS ARMSTRONG MEMORIAL TRUST FUND UPDATE

Opening Balance ( April 1,1989)	\$ 6,405.83
Donations	\$ 220.00
Memberships	\$ 380.00
Interest	\$ 60.41
	\$ 7,066.24
less Grants	\$ 1,020.00
Balance as of June 30.	\$ 6,046.24





## THE QUILT -- A SPREAD OF HOPE -- CANADA 1989

The Canadian tour of the Names Project Quilt stopped in Calgary for three days, July 4 - 6. It started out in Halifax with 1,000 panels (out of over 9,000 panels that make up the entire quilt). At each Canadian stop new panels have been added. Here are some impressions felt by those of us from Edmonton who were fortunate to be able to go to Calgary.

" .... overwhelming, provocative, touching, all at once, and its only a sample."

" .... AIDS was not an issue for me until today. The scope of what I viewed today was overwhelming and I realize it is an issue that we must all contend with."

" .... I hope that the people of Edmonton will come together to make a few panels for those not remembered by all or those who are not being remembered by others."

" .... The Quilt is probably the largest piece of folk-art ever produced and has all the ability of folk-art to be naive and take you by the throat at the same time. ...a memorial list of names now past, has become a vast expression of present and continuing love in a way which a more formal monument --- no matter how impressive -- could possibly have managed".

"....It hurt like hell. Every few panels, one would catch the feelings in my throat. I went outside a few times overwhelmed, and finally exhausted."

"....I'm emotionally tired now as we come home on the bus. I've been reminded, once again, how precious life is."

"....A very special day. The panels were beautiful and painful. ...So many have died, so many are dying...it has to stop."

"....what was being shared by each panel was sacred...each panel spoke from the heart to the heart of the person looking."

"....I'm really glad that I was able to be in Calgary today to see all the quilts. It was very moving and sad."

"....Now that we have seen them we will make one for our loved one, she was a wonderful brave strong lady that never complained and gave us so much to remember her by."

The quilt has one more stop - Vancouver July 12 - 16. When the tour is over the Canadian panels will go to Halifax, the permanent home of the Canadian Quilt. It is anticipated that the Canadian Quilt will tour again in 1991-92.

The Network is interested in assisting individuals or groups who are interested in making a panel. Contact us at the office for more information.



### CAN YOU HELP

We are looking for the following equipment and supplies: (new or used)

- legal size filing cabinet (lock)
- two bookcases
- mailing tubes
- brown envelopes (various sizes)
- 3 ring binders
- stacking trays

We would greatly appreciate any help in obtaining these items.



## Upcoming events

### Safer Sex Workshops

dates are tentative - depending on registration:

July 22,25 (for gay & bisexual men)

Aug. 12 - (for heterosexuals)

Aug.13,15 (for gay & bisexual men)

Sept.9,12,24 (for gay & bisexual men)

### Elisabeth Kubler-Ross Centre

Life, Death & Transition - 5 day live in workshop - \$600. U.S.

September 11 - 15, 1989

at Sorrento Centre

Sorrento, B.C.

TO REGISTER: write or phone

Workshop Co-ordinator

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross Centre

S. Route 616,

Headwaters, Virginia

U.S.A.

24442

Phone: (703) 396-3441

### New Volunteer Training - Fall, 1989

Interested in volunteering with the AIDS Network? An introductory information evening is being scheduled for late August for prospective volunteers. Phone the Volunteer Co-ordinator at 424-4767 for application and information.

### Information Booths

The AIDS Network will be operating information booths again this year at:

#### KLONDIKE DAYS

July 20 - July 29, 1989

11 a.m. - 11 p.m.

in Northlands Agricom

#### THE FRINGE

August 19 - August 27, 1989

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.



VOLUNTEERS...  
THE HEART OF IT ALL!



### It's About Time

Airs on QCTV - Channel 19

Shaw Cable - Channel 28

Friday, August 25, 1989

7 p.m. & 10 p.m.

Saturday, August 26, 1989

6 p.m. & 9 p.m.

Rita Deverell will be interviewing 2 men who are working with People Living with AIDS. It's an eloquent call for justice and respect for P.L.W.A.



*Thank You!*

To the students, teachers and friends who undertook fund raising projects:

- Rimbey Junior/Senior High School students who raised \$900 for the AIDS Network Research Trust Fund at the University of Alberta.
- Laurier Heights Elementary/Junior High School who raised \$150 to support the public education programs of the AIDS Network.

To Tom S. who donated a new television monitor and V.C.R. machine to the Network to replace rented equipment used for our volunteer training and education programs.

We greatly appreciate the community support and involvement in projects to provide financial support for our work and for research.





**Office Address:**

10704 - 108 Street  
Second Floor  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5H 3A3

**Telephone Number:**

Info Line: 429-AIDS (2437)  
Business Line: 424-4767

**Office Hours:**

Monday - Wednesday 9 am - 6 pm  
Thursday 9 am - 9 pm  
Friday 9 am - 6 pm

**Information Line Hours:**

Monday - Thurs 9 am - 9 pm  
Friday 9 am - 6 pm  
Saturday 11 am - 3 pm

The newsletter is published monthly by the AIDS network of Edmonton Society with the financial assistance from the HEALTH PROMOTION DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH AND WELFARE CANADA AND LEVI STRAUSS CO. (Canada) Inc.

The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society, incorporated in February, 1986, is a non-profit charitable organization (Reg. #0747212-11-25).

**MEDICAL RESEARCH**

Donations to AIDS Research can be made through the AIDS Network Research Trust Fund, administered by the University of Alberta. Donations are matched by provincial funds, and a charitable receipt is available.

The mandate of the AIDS Network is to provide support to those affected by AIDS and to educate and inform with a view to limiting its spread.

**INFORMATION**

An informational and support telephone line operates Monday - Saturday. Pamphlets and a lending resource library are available to agencies and the public.

**EDUCATIONAL**

A speakers bureau provides speakers for educational presentations to concerned groups.

Audiovisual materials and information files are available on loan.

**COUNSELLING**

Confidential one-on-one professional counselling services are available to persons directly or indirectly concerned about AIDS. Referrals to other professional services are made on request.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

For persons who are concerned about their HIV status; who have tested positive for HIV antibodies; for persons with AIDS; for friends, families and partners of persons with AIDS.

**ADVOCACY**

Assistance will be provided to individuals facing difficulties in receiving services because of their health status.

**SERVICES**

The AIDS Network works to coordinate the services of supportive public and private agencies in all areas involved by the AIDS crisis.

The services of the AIDS Network of Edmonton Society are provided FREE and on a CONFIDENTIAL basis.



Ross Armstrong Office, 2nd Floor, 10704 - 108 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 3A3  
(403) 424-4767

AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

A \$25.00 membership contributes to the support of persons with AIDS, entitles you to receive a monthly newsletter, and the right to vote at the AIDS Network annual general meeting.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please notify the AIDS Network if your address changes.

Please inquire about the reduced membership rates for students or the unemployed.



The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society is a member of the  
CANADIAN AIDS  
SOCIETY/LASOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE DU SIDA